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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,572	11/30/2001	Shinichiro Choji	50195-286	3795
7590 06/08/2004 MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY 600 13th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005-3096			EXAMINER MEREK, JOSEPH C	
			ART UNIT 3727	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/996,572

Applicant(s)

CHOJI ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph C. Merek

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. It has not been adequately disclosed how the melting point of the coating is lower than the melting point of the first part since they are made of the "same material" as required in claim 1. The same is read as being identical. Moreover, the specification states that the materials are not the same only the base resin of the coating is the same as the material of the first part. The coating has additives to reduce the melting point.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It has not been adequately disclosed how the melting point of the coating is lower than the melting point of the first part since they are made of the "same material" as required in claim 1. The same is read as being identical. Moreover, the specification states that the materials are not the same only the base resin of the coating is the same as the material of the first part. The coating has additives to reduce the melting point. It is not clear what is being claimed.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kasugai et al (US 5,104,472). Regarding claim 1, as it is best understood, as seen in Fig. 7, the insert part 21 has coatings 23 and 15 both of which cause the insert to bond to the tank wall P. The first part is the tank P and the second part is the insert 21, which is insert-molded in the first part. The paint limitation does not require any structure that is not in the reference. 23 and 15 both coat part 21 and satisfy the limitation of paint. P and 23 are made of the same material. Regarding claim 2, the process step of powder coating does not require any structure that is not in the reference. Regarding claim 3, the second part is heat treated when the container P is blow molded since it requires heating of the mold as seen in Col. 4, lines 4 and 5. Regarding claim 4, the first part is made of resin and the second part is made of metal as seen in Fig. 7 and Col. 3, line 53. See Col. 3, lines 8 and 9 where the body portion 3 (i.e. the parison P) and the

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tubular member 20 are made of a polyamide. Regarding claim 10, it is inherent that the melting temperature of the coating 15 is lower than that of the polyamide.

Claims 1-4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Prince (US 6,189,744). Regarding claim 1, see Fig. 1 a where the insert part 1 is a part that is coated with plastic to increase the bond between part 1 and plastic tube 8. The coating and the plastic of part 8 are the same material. The paint limitation does not require any structure that is not in the reference. Regarding claim 3, the second part 1 is heat treated during the induction heating of the second part to bond the part 1 to the first part 8. Regarding claim 4, the first part 8 is made of polyethylene and the second part 1 is a metal. Regarding claim 10, see page 6 where the first part 8 (the bag or tube) can be made of multiple layers which includes materials that have a higher melting point than the polyethylene.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being are anticipated by Pachciarz et al (US 6,435,365). Regarding claim 1, as it is best understood, both the material of the tank and that of encapsulated ring are both plastic and therefore satisfy the limitation. Regarding claim 2, the process limitation of powder coating does not require any structure that is not in the reference. Regarding claim 3, encapsulated ring is heat treated during the molding process. Regarding claim 4, the first part the tank is plastic and the second part the ring 22 is metal.

Response to Arguments

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Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 and 10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed 3/10/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the structures of Kasugai et al and Pachciarz et al are not coated with a paint that is the same material as that of the first part. This is clearly not required as seen in the written disclosure that the coating of the instant invention is different from that of the first part. The limitation paint does not require any structure that is not in either reference. Moreover, the tube 20 of Kasugai et al is coated with the same plastic material as that of the first part.

Conclusion

This is a non-final action due to the new grounds of rejection.

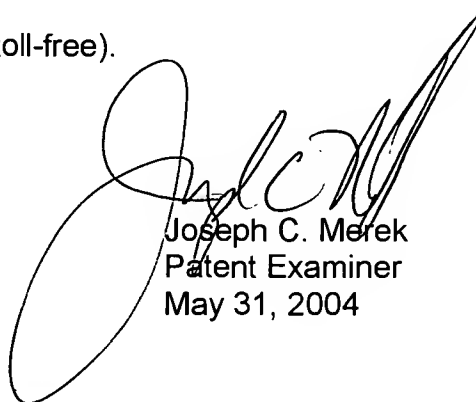
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schochert, Uhlig, and Choi are all cited for teaching coating a metal part with plastic to enhance its bond to a plastic part.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph C. Merek whose telephone number is (703) 305-0644. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee Young can be reached on (703) 308-2572. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Joseph C. Merek
Patent Examiner
May 31, 2004